

# Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Dec. 10-16, 2007      Volume 2, Issue 61



## Weekly wrap-up

### Commission on Local Government Reform report released

Dec. 11, 2007- Former Governor Joe Kernan and Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall Shepard, co-chairs of the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform, released the Commission's report, *Streamlining Local Government: We've got to stop governing like this.*

The report includes 27 recommendations for making Indiana's local government more efficient, effective, understandable and accountable. It calls for changes in counties, cities, townships, libraries, schools and more.

"The only way we ever make change is when the public demands it," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "I think the days ahead are for the public to digest these ideas, consider the credibility and sincerity of the people who have brought them to us and then we'll all talk about which ones and in which order."



Dec. 11, 2007- Governor Daniels joined members of the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform for the Commission's presentation of its recommendations on reforming and restructuring local government.

Governor Daniels formed the bipartisan commission in July 2007 and asked its members to "recommend ways to restructure local government to increase efficiency and reduce the financial burden on Indiana taxpayers."

[View the final report.](#)

[Listen to the announcement.](#)

[Watch video of the announcement.](#)

### Governor celebrates Statehood Day with Hoosier youth



Dec. 11, 2007- Governor Daniels recognized Adriana Culver of Avon for her award-winning essay "What Indiana Means to Me" during this year's Statehood Day Celebration in the State House.

Dec. 11, 2007- Governor Daniels invited fourth graders from across the state to the State House for a celebration of Indiana's 191st birthday. The annual Statehood Day program included a welcome from the governor, the installation of the original 1816 and 1851 state Constitutions in special cases in the rotunda, historical reenactments and other displays and activities from various state agencies.

The governor also presented the Indiana State Historic Records Advisory Board Awards and recognized the winners of the statewide student essay contest. Natalie Ciresi of Carmel recited from memory her first-place essay "What Indiana Means to Me" during the event.

### Major Moves update

Dec. 12, 2007- Gov. Daniels has directed INDOT to build two interchanges along US 24 as part of the Fort to Port project, a \$170 million Major Moves construction plan that includes added capacity for a 13.1-mile section of US 24 from Fort Wayne to the Ohio state line. Currently US 24 is a two-lane rural road with inadequate capacity, with trucks and freight haulers making up 50 percent of traffic.

[Read the news release.](#)



Dec. 12, 2007- The governor was joined by State Rep. Randy Borror to announce a plan for the Fort to Port project that will improve safety and access for international markets.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

### Company to locate world's largest bio-plastic production facility in Indiana

Dec. 10, 2007- Cereplast, Inc., a designer and manufacturer of bio-based plastic resin, announced it will locate the world's largest bio-based plastic resin manufacturing and distribution facility in Seymour, creating up to 200 new jobs.

The Hawthorne, Calif. company, which designs, manufactures and distributes plastic resin based on plant starches instead of petroleum, will initially invest more than \$7 million to equip an existing 100,000-square-foot industrial building in the Southern Indiana city.

"Cereplast is exactly the kind of business that we're most interested in attracting. A unique company like this that has market-changing possibilities and the potential for rapid growth is a big win for Indiana," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

[Read the news release.](#)

### Canadian equipment company to establish operations in Union City

Dec. 12, 2007- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from grain handling equipment manufacturer Ag Growth Industries to announce the company's plans to locate a new manufacturing facility in Union City, with plans to create more than 70 new jobs by 2010.

The Canada-based company, which manufactures and distributes augers, conveyors, grain storage bins and other grain handling equipment, will make a multi-million dollar investment to locate its new operations in the 163,000 square-foot former Union City Body Company building on the city's west side.

"We've seen a string of jobs announcements throughout Indiana in great small cities and towns like Union City. From Francesville to Utica, more and more companies like Ag Growth are choosing to invest in Indiana and are creating new opportunities for Hoosiers," said Daniels.

[Read the news release.](#)



*Dec. 12, 2007- The governor greets Hoosiers after joining executives from Ag Growth to announce the company's plans to locate a new manufacturing center in Union City.*

### High-tech aluminum casting company to locate in Bluffton



*Dec. 12, 2007- Gov. Daniels talks with area FFA members at the Alexin jobs announcement in Bluffton. The company will create more than 50 new jobs in Wells County.*

Dec. 12, 2007- Governor Daniels joined executives from start-up aluminum billet manufacturer Alexin LLC to announce the company will locate its first manufacturing facility in Bluffton, creating more than 50 new jobs.

Alexin will invest more than \$56 million to equip and finance its new production facility that will transform scrap aluminum into billet for extruders throughout the Midwest.

"More and more companies are recognizing that Indiana is a great place to do business, and we're glad Alexin selected Indiana for their new operation," said Daniels.

[Read the news release.](#)

### A look ahead...

On Friday, Governor Daniels will make remarks at a State House ceremony to celebrate the life of U.S. Representative Julia Carson.